

Charles William Halderman and The Astoria Golf and Country Club

By Evelyn Hankel

THE ASTORIA GOLF and Country Club was a dream and plan in the heart of Astoria Counsellor, Charles W. Halderman which became a reality for him and his friends in 1924. The previous year in June 1923, Halderman and his friends A. C. Fulton and J. F. Roman spread the word of an initial warm-up meeting that "set the ball rolling."

Founder & First President

Halderman, a prominent and well-known Astoria attorney, was born April 17, 1881 in Pawnee County, Nebraska, the son of William J. and Ida Fulton Halderman. He attended the University of Kansas and came to Astoria in August, 1900 where he worked for a time as bookkeeper for lumber mills and canneries in this area. From 1903 to 1910 he served as private secretary to his uncle, U. S. Senator C. W. Fulton in Washington, D.C. He returned to Astoria and operated the Astoria Fuel and Supply Company for many years.

Charlie Halderman studied law under another uncle, G. C. Fulton, and passed the Bar in 1918, but did not go into private practice until 1933. From 1921 to 1933 he was Postmaster of Astoria, and was instrumental in the building of the new post office building (1933).

On June 30, 1906, Charles Halderman and Bertha Hobson, daughter of pioneer John Hobson, were married in Astoria. A son, John and a daughter, Marjorie were born to them in Astoria. John is a research lawyer in Durham, North



Charles W. Halderman

Carolina and Marjorie Halderman, an honored teacher in the Astoria area, has made her home here in the Heritage home of her Hobson grandparents.

Through the years in Astoria, Charles Halderman held many civic positions, to name a few: He spearheaded and held position as head of the Regatta Association for many years. He was always interested in school affairs and was a member of the Astoria School Board a number of times. Halderman was a member of the Republican Central Committee and with G. C. Fulton, bought the land and organized the Astoria Golf and Country Club, serving as the first President for fourteen years.

1923 Organizing Meeting

On June 1, 1923, all interested Astorians met in the Clatsop County Courthouse for the first planning session for an Astoria Golf Club and Links. 75 men



(Above) Links of the Astoria Golf and Country Club. 1924 Clubhouse with addition shown at left.

(On the following page) Certificate showing incorporation of the City of Clatsop approved October 29, 1870.

from a list of 110 prospective members were present that evening.

Officers and Trustees were selected as follows:

Trustees: G. C. Fulton, J. E. Roman, W. Sanborn, C. W. Halderman, G. W. Utzinger, R. R. Bartlett, Morton Nelson, E. M. Cherry and Roger Pinneo.

Charles Halderman was unanimously elected President and Grover Utzinger, Secretary.

President Halderman appointed three Committee Chairmen:

By-Laws: F. C. Hesse, G. C. Fulton and E. M. Cherry

Finance: J. E. Roman, G. W. Utzinger and M. Sweet

Planning: R. R. Bartlett, who later consulted with R. C. Ashbury, a past Astorian, now of Portland, who had laid out a number of links in the Northwest.

Golf Links Site Selected

The site chosen for the golf links had been partly a cranberry bog and was listed as a partition of the incorporated town of Clatsop on Clatsop Plains in the

County of Clatsop. Clatsop was a town for a short time, having been approved by the Oregon Senate on October 29, 1870.

As soon as the site was chosen, the plans for the Astoria Golf and Country Club blossomed. Charlie Halderman wrote to his friend, Nelson Troyer, president of the Astoria-Seattle Iron Works in Seattle. Mr. Troyer had been a founder of the Rainier Golf Club of Seattle, and the by-laws of that organization were the guide lines for the Astoria club.

Charter Members

As of July 7, 1923, 110 members were given certificates of membership. The list includes most of the well-known Astoria professional and business men of that era. Copies of early certificates are some of the memorabilia of the Club today. These are signed by President Charles W. Halderman and then-Secretary, Grover W. Utzinger, on May 28, 1923.

Of the original members, some of the sons and daughters and grandchildren living in the area, are recognized:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF OREGON.

Office of the Secretary of State.

H. R. Kincaid, Salem, Oregon, *Jan'y. 25, 1895.*
I, ~~Geo. W. McBride~~, do hereby certify that I am the Secretary

of State of the State of Oregon, and Custodian of the Seal of said State; that the foregoing transcript of _____

An Act
to Incorporate the Town of Clatsop
— in the —
— County of Clatsop —

— Approved Oct. 29, 1890⁽⁷⁾ —

has been by me compared with the original copy of the said

— Act —

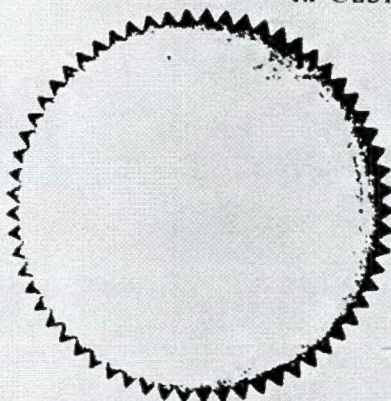
now on file in this office, and that it is a true and correct transcript thereof, and the whole of said original _____

— Act —

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and affixed hereto the Seal of the State of Oregon.

Done at the Capitol, at Salem, Oregon, this *Twenty-fifth* day of *January*, A. D. 1895

H. R. Kincaid,
Secretary of State.

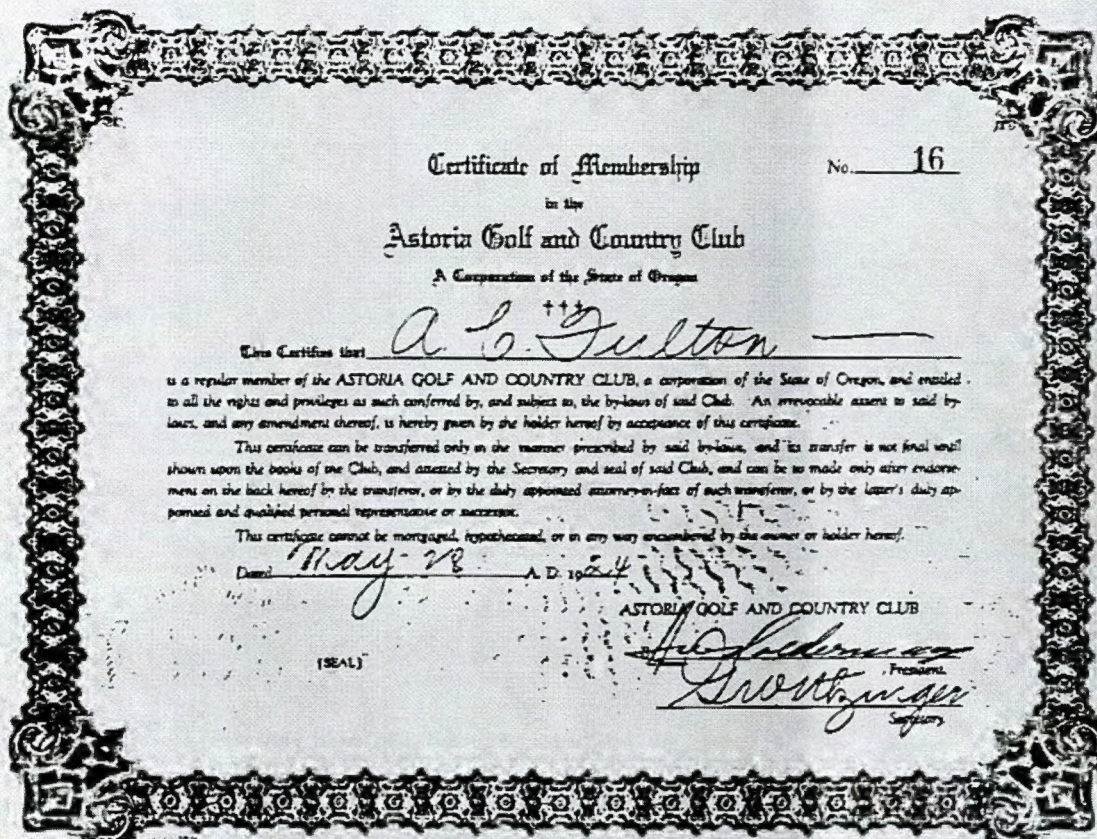




(Left to Right) Charles Halderman, Don French, Peter Paulson, Robert Lovell, George Harvey, Howard Bonar, Hans Pasma, Graham Barbey and Chester Laughlin. At 9th fairway, circa 1948.

(Below) Ed Oldfield, Astoria Pro; Don Mitchell, Astoria Pres.; Ralph Welch, Sand Point Pres.; and John Holtmer, Sand Point Pro, during Pro Pres. Tournament at Broadmoor Country Club, 1959.





Charles Halderman
 Marjorie Halderman
 E. G. and Elsie Gearhart
 Jean Gearhart Sandoz
 Grover W. Utzinger
 Grover W. Utzinger Jr.
 Louis Schairer
 Olga Schairer (wife)
 Ann Potter (daughter)
 G. C. Fulton & A. C. Fulton
 George C. Fulton
 Sherman and Ruby Lovell
 Robert Lovell
 James and Helen Hope
 John C. Hope
 Sally Hope Morris
 J. H. Cellars
 Allan Cellars
 Adam and Lloyd Van Dusen
 Bill, Dan and Willis Van Dusen
 W. F. McGregor
 W. F. McGregor Jr.
 Scott McGregor
 Neil Morfitt

Neil Morfitt Jr.
 J. H. Shaner
 Wesley Shaner
 F. M. Sweet
 Polly Sweet McKee
 Austin Osborn
 John Osborn
 C. L. Rogers
 Charles Rogers
 Nancy Rogers Bates
 Peter Cosovich
 Carla Cosovich (wife)
 J. S. Dellinger
 Jack Dellinger
 A. W. Norblad
 Eleanor Norblad Sorrels
 Roy Salisbury
 Patricia Salisbury Thomas
 Leo J. Malarkey
 Donald Malarkey
 E. A. Higgins
 Ted Stokes (grandson)
 Otto A. Owen
 Charles Owen



Astoria Golf & Country Club's first Clubhouse, built in 1924.

*C. W. Robinson
Mary Robinson Lovell
Edwin C. Judd
Jim Neikes (grandson)
Dr. Toivo Forsstrom
Vivienne Friedrich*

Opening Day

Within one year of the planning meeting the club opened to an enthusiastic group of 110 members ready to try the course. The Opening Day was June 18, 1924.

First Club house

The first clubhouse was more or less a one room affair. Jean Gearhart Sandoz remembers it as rather small, with a lunch counter on one side and later a number of additions which allowed for a small dining area and kitchen. The bar was added and a club-like atmosphere prevailed.

The first donation to the interior decoration of the Club House was a large

mirror from the old steamer, *T. J. Potter*, which had been on the Portland-Astoria run for many years.

Present Club house

From 1924 to 1940, the membership expanded. The 1924 Club house building had been remodeled in 1947. With the demise of the first Club house which burned to the ground after a smoldering fire was discovered by the Club Manager early on Sunday morning, June 2, 1968, a second much larger building was set up which is the present day Astoria Golf and County Club house.

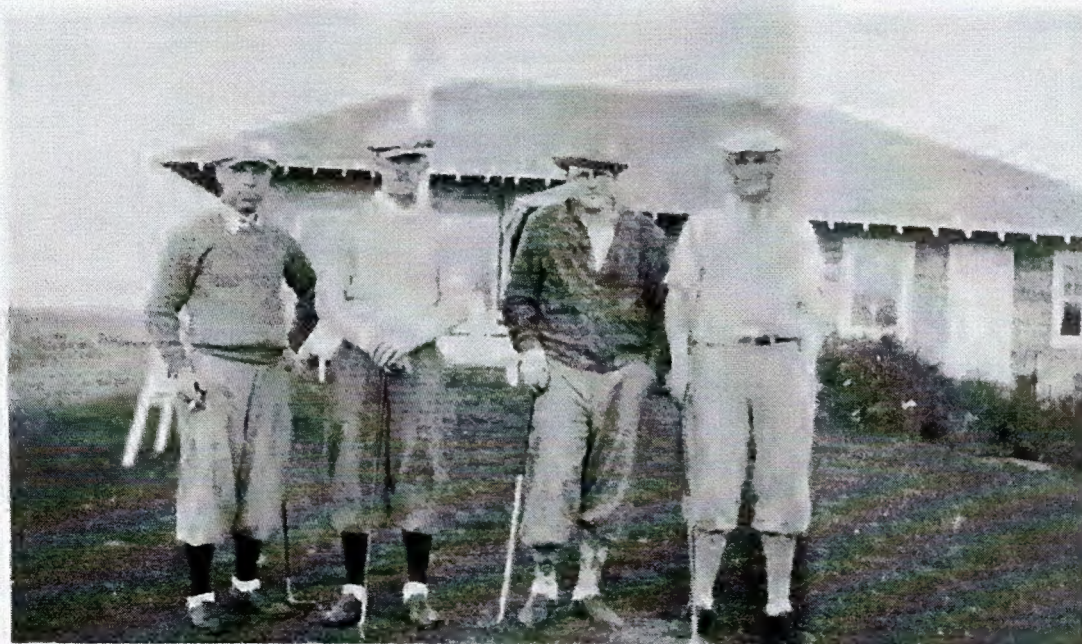
Women's Auxiliary

Through those early years Charles Halderman was re-elected as President, and the Women's Auxiliary was formed as the women became important members of the Club. Here they held their own tournaments, Bridge Club luncheons and Fashion Shows, drawing women from throughout the Northwest. Loyal and true members all the years up



(Above, Left to Right) Top two: Lucille McDonald, Mike Vincel; Next two: Alice Fulton, Bertha Halderman; Next three: Barbara Halderman, Marie Spaulding, Darle Van Dusen; Next four: Helen Hope, Ruby Lovell, Ethel Barbey, Beulah Sasnett; Seated on horse: Helen Malarkey, Mia Allen; Far right: Elsie Gearhart. Circa 1930. (Photo courtesy of Don Malarkey.)

(Below) Fred Wilson, Chester Noonan, Frank Fowler and Prentiss Hall.



to the present time, which finds many daughters of the original Women's Auxiliary now as leading members.

Record Breaking Games

Those early years had a number of record breaking games and holes-in-one, and here are listed just a few of these titles:

The first hole-in-one was attributed to an officer at Fort Stevens.

Mrs. R. R. Bartlett, elected President of the Women's Auxiliary, and Mrs. Sherman (Ruby) Lovell won the Women's Championship golf title in 1928.

Mrs. Lucien (Beulah) Sasnett, elected President of the Women's Auxiliary in 1929 (mother to Barbara Sasnett Doyle). Beulah Sasnett became the new Golf Queen for 1929.

William C. Palmberg broke the Course record at the Club with 69 on August 11, 1929.

In 1930, we find Mrs. L. M. (Marie) Spaulding Auxiliary President. In 1931, Mel Smith, Golf Pro from Portland was instructor at the Club.

Charlie Halderman was honored with a Life Membership to the Astoria Golf and Country Club, in 1931.

In 1936, another record was established when Mrs. George Ostrum became the first woman to have a "hole-in-one" at the Club.

Myrtle Lawson was for many years the leading lady golfer at the Club, and held the Auxiliary Chairmanship for these years. Myrtle and her husband operated Lawson's Confectionery in Astoria.

The women members of The Club had many "Fun" gatherings and often celebrated Club anniversaries with costume parties, as shown in the photo.

Oregon Coast Tournament Champions, men and women, are recorded from 1910 to the present year, and listings kept at the club.



Neil Morfitt (left) and Sherman Lovell during auto dealers convention at Gearhart.

The 1988 Club officers are: President Don Cox, Vice President John Alexanian, Secretary Gary Hanson, Treasurer Ed Rippit, Board of Directors: Bob Canessa, Al Davis, Lee McHugh, Bob Mangold and Dave Palmberg.

Beloved historian, Dr. Jorma Leinassar, while Club Historian gathered much material in preparation for an extended history of the Club, which never materialized due to his untimely death. Club Manager, John Mattingly, kindly gave us the use of the material for this article.

Evelyn G. Hankel

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Astoria counsellor Charles William Halderman's dream of The Astoria Golf and Country Club became a reality in 1924.

32 BUTTERFIELD'S 1893 BEACH HOUSE

This nearly 100-year-old beach cottage has survived destruction several times on its way to becoming Seaside Historical Society's unique museum and interpretive center of beachside living.

COVER: Pacific Power & Light Co. streetcar No. 14 was the largest and best of the fleet, serving Astoria from 1914 until the line was replaced by Astoria Transit Company motor buses in 1924. The motorman is Eli McConkey, who came to Astoria in 1905. (CCHS photo #1777-236.)

CUMTUX: Chinook jargon:

"To know . . . acknowledge . . . to inform."